



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY – MARCH 2019

WALKERBURN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2019 ELECTION NOTICE

If you are interested in helping and protecting our community, then why not join the Community Council?

We need new members to join as some of our existing members will be retiring after the AGM in June.

The Community Council acts as a link between the community and public bodies such as the Council and the Scottish Government. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm in the Public Hall and are open to members of the public.

You must be: Over 18 and a registered voter; willing to listen to other residents; and willing to take decisions in the general community interest. Members serve for a term of 3 years and are then eligible for re-election.

Closing Date for Nominations: Friday 26th April.

Closing Date for Withdrawals: Midday Friday 3rd

May.

Date of Poll (if contested): Friday 31st May, Walkerburn Public Hall 2.00pm-8.00pm.

If you are interested, please ask the Community Council Secretary, Lesley Thornton. For more information and a nomination form, please telephone 01896 870251 or email wccsecretary@walkerburn.com - or pick up a form from the Post Office.

Completed forms can also be left in a sealed ballot box at the Post Office.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 20th March at 7.00pm in the Public Hall. You don't need to stay for the whole meeting, but why not come along and see what we do?

Financial Health Checks Initiative

The 'Financial Health Check Initiative' is delivered by the Citizens Advice Network in Scotland and backed by the Scottish Government.

It aims to motivate low income families to seek financial advice to maximise their income by ensuring that they are not paying more for essential goods and services than they need to and that they are getting all the benefits, grants and exemptions (council tax, energy etc.) to which they are entitled. It also allows them to access support and impartial advice where they need to e.g. debt advice.

This new service has already helped hundreds of Scots maximise their income.

One call to the free 'phonenumber on 0800 085 7145 is all it takes for families to find out what they are eligible for.

Clients can also access the service through any of our bureau across Scotland.

Any low income household can also access a financial health check.

We want everyone to be aware that there is free financial support out there for them and that they don't need to feel scared or worried about calling us.

'What Matters' Hub Drop In Sessions Reminder

Don't forget, the Health and Social Care Partnership is holding a series of 'What Matters' Hubs in Walkerburn Community Hall from 10am-1pm on Mondays March 25th, April 29th, May 27th and June 24th.

Appointments can also be booked by phoning the Council's Customer Advice and Support Team on 0300 100 1800.

What Matters Hubs are an opportunity for people to meet with Partnership staff such as social workers and occupational therapists, as well as third sector representatives to get advice about social care and

health services and activities available in their local area.

More information is available at www.scotborders.gov.uk/whatmattershubs, or from Customer Advice and Support on 0800 100 1800.

FAULTY DINING

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 7pm for 7.30pm

DRAGONFLY THEATRE hesitates to present FAULTY DINING in Walkerburn Village Hall.

"An evening of fine (chaotic) dining including a two course meal (soup, dessert, cheese & biscuits), coffee, indigestion and entertainment" Licensed Bar (Wine & Beer) & Raffle. Tickets £15 (incl. 'Gaviscon' or your choice of indigestion relief!) Available from Walkerburn Post Office or 01896-870471.

Profits to Walkerburn and Eastgate Peebles Development Fund.



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Latest news on Facebook:
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Walkerburn Bowls and Petanque

Welcome to our 121st Season!

We have kept active throughout the winter months, thanks to much help from the milder weather this time round!

Friday afternoons are still a busy time for the Petanque section, and we extend a welcome to anyone who would like to come along and try their hand.

The club AGM has been scheduled for Sunday 24th March at 1.00pm in the clubhouse.

We are looking forward to a busy summer. The Peeblesshire Bowls League matches start on Tuesday 30th April with a home game against West Linton and continues, on a ‘Home and Away’ basis until 6th August.

We will publish a list of the club competitions in next month's Burning Issues.

The new Petanque competition season starts on 22nd April at 1.30pm.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to try their hand at Bowls or Petanque and to anyone who would like to join as a social member now that the clubhouse is fully functional.

We extend an especially warm welcome to former players who might like to re-join and relive old times that they enjoyed at Walkerburn.

WINTER ADVICE FROM SCOTTISH WATER

Scottish Water has posted a lot of good advice on their website regarding their annual drive to encourage customers to heat, insulate and protect their homes.

They have attached some materials for all in the community which can be shared to help provide advice on how to avoid burst pipes in the home and on what to do if a pipe does burst.

Please go to their website www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter for more information.

WALKERBURN COMMUNITY CRAFT CENTRE ‘CRAFTS4U’

Walkerburn Old Mill Car Park

Tuesday: 1.00pm- 4.00pm (Quilting). **Wednesday:** (Your Choice) 7.00pm-9.00pm.

Thursday: Class in knitting and crochet for beginners and more experienced people 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Friday: 1.00 pm – 4.00pm (Craft-for-Club)

Cost: Members £1.00 per hour, Non Members £1.50 per hour.

Because of the continuing success of the Club, Membership now costs £20.00 per calendar year and allows you access to the cabin at all times and Social Membership is £5.00 per calendar year. Newcomers always given a warm welcome.

Any queries, please contact Jenni Brown on 01896 833883.

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WINGBEAT PARAGLIDING CLUB

Wingbeat is a local club that has been flying in the Scottish Borders for over 25 years, yet we are still probably the smallest paragliding club in the UK.

We are also quite friendly, so get in touch if you want to know more about the sport, at wingbeat-paragliding.co.uk.

Finally, a big thank you to Mollie McIntosh and Win Pennel for their support over the past three years - we will be back next year!

WAYS TO AVOID TELEPHONE SCAMS

Here are ways to stay protected from scam calls.

While you can never stop scam calls completely, these are some ways to make sure you're safe and that you stay protected. Look out for these 5 common tricks that scammers use.

It's probably a scam if someone calls you out the blue to:

- i) tell you that your service has been hacked
- ii) try to remotely take control of your computer or another device
- iii) tell you they've found a problem with your computer

iv) ask you for an urgent payment and threaten to disconnect your service

v) ask for payment details to activate Call Protect, Caller Display, or any of our free services.

If something doesn't seem right, you can still stay in control.

Make sure not to give out any personal details, hang up the phone, and report the call on our website at bt.com/scams or phoning your local Police on the '101' crime reporting line.

School News

Walkerburn Primary School is twinned with St Ronans Primary and an update on the progress that has been made on school improvement has been posted on the school website for everyone to read: All of our improvements are designed to enable our children to be creative, confident and ambitious leaders of their own learning and to help them develop the skills that they will need to achieve their full potential.

Web: www.st-ronans.org.uk; Facebook: [/stronansschool/](https://www.facebook.com/stronansschool/); Twitter: [@stronansschool](https://twitter.com/stronansschool); Tel 01896 830349

The first day of the Easter Holiday is Saturday 30th March and the last day is Monday 15th April.

Walkerburn Old Age Pensioners

Walkerburn Pensioners held their monthly meeting in the Village Hall and enjoyed their games of Dominoes, followed by a chat with their tea and biscuits. Beth Tocher was first in the Dominoes, Anne Kenyon got the booby and Laura Brett won the raffle.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday March 12th, to which any members would be made welcome.

On Saturday 23rd March we are holding our Annual Coffee Morning in the Village Hall from 10 till 11.30, and plan to have the usual stalls, donations for which would be greatly appreciated. Again everyone is welcome to come and make this event its usual success.

COOKING ON A BUDGET

Walkerburn Village Hall, Tuesday 11th June - 11am to 1pm

The 'You can Cook' team will be doing a free and interactive workshop presentation, fully funded by the Lottery Community Fund in association with Financial Inclusion Project Borders.

To reserve a place ring 0300 303 9696

'BURNING ISSUES' AGM

The Walkerburn Newsgroup AGM was held in the Craft Club on 26th February. Many thanks to the Craft Club for the loan of their comfortable premises! Also, particular mention was made of all the support we have again had over the past year from our helpers, contributors, advertisers, generous donors and readers. We are entirely self-funded and could not continue without this support as we are within sight of our 200th edition.

Many thanks to all!

'THANK YOU'

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Hall Management Committee for their hard work in securing a record number of bookings over the past year. Well done! - *Mollie McIntosh*



Sheila Bertolino

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March Wildside

Is that evidence of Spring in the air? Of course!

Buds are starting to open on shrubs and trees, catkins and blossoms are on some trees and crocuses and daffodils are coming into their own. Snow showers are not yet a distant memory and there is some still lying up on the hills as well as in the forecast. Two years ago I was admiring blue skies; last year we were in the snow and this year I think we're in between the two. Birds are definitely starting to pair up for the breeding season but I've yet to see any frog spawn in the usual, damp places.

There is to be a cull of goosanders and cormorants on the Tweed as their rising population is believed to be depleting fish numbers to a worrying extent. It, like culling any animals, is controversial but if they are taking so many young fish, particularly salmon, and other than the sport of angling there are a lot of livelihoods depend on salmon and its associated industries. I've always believed that as we've already historically interfered in 'nature' we have a responsibility to do what we can to keep or restore the balance.

In the garden, we have had lots of our usual birds and the feeders have been busy. We have a pair of nuthatches visiting the feeders and pairs of long tailed tits and siskins. Our newest sunflower seed gravity feeder is very popular with the coal, blue and great tits too. I've only had one glimpse of the woodpecker but with all these other birds visiting in numbers I'm hopeful of some of the nestboxes being put to use and seeing young birds in late Spring. The buzzards are flying noisily over the forest calling to each other as they pair and no doubt they'll be another 'screecher' this year (the name we give the young buzzards we see) at their forest side nest.

Out and about in the fields, I notice that the moles are already very busy. It must be pretty easy digging the damp soil. We have had a damp winter but it's not been the freezing cold temperatures we might expect. No doubt, I'll soon be complaining about rabbits getting in the garden again. I'll just have to think about butterflies and baby birds instead!

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20th February, 2019

Present: Dr S. Henderson, (Chairman), Ms M. Daykin, Ms E. Guy, Arran Houston, Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson, Mr G. Thornton, Mrs L. Thornton (Secretary). **Ex Officio:** Councillor S. Bell

Apologies and Notices. Mr P. Waller, Ms M. McIntosh, Mr I. McVean, Councillor S. Haslam, Councillor R. Tatler

Police Report. None. *(We have since learnt that PC Burnside has sustained a broken wrist and is off work)*

Approval of the Draft Minutes of the December Meeting. Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson, seconded by Ms Daykin and passed by members

Correspondence for 20th December 2018 to 20th February 2019 *(All emails already circulated)*

Reports by Members.

a) Ms Guy mentioned the criticism of cyclists that had been brought up in the pre-Christmas period and pointed out that the vast majority of cyclists acted very responsibly. They also contribute a great deal to the local economy and should be welcomed. Occasional problems encountered by motorists trying to pass slow-moving cyclists on our narrow roads were not as commonplace as detractors claimed and she asked that motorists exercise a degree of patience in such situations.

She also drew attention to the considerable other benefits of cycling – not least the contributions they

have had in influencing public bodies to finance the excellent public pathways that we now enjoy.

She agreed to get an article for Burning Issues to rebut the criticism.

In addition, while discussing the cycling, and in the absence of a Police report for the Community Council, she warned that there has been a continuing spate of thefts of high value cycles in the local area. Once again, owners are urged to take adequate safety precautions and keep a look out for potential thieves.

b) Ms Daykin mentioned that she had spoken with SBHA about replacing the 2 trees that had to be removed from Park Avenue. She hoped that would be planted and will continue to monitor the situation.

She also asked what was happening about the new Tapestry of Scotland building. Cllr. Bell confirmed that funding provision has been made in the new SBC budget. Despite site difficulties, the project is going ahead and work is being carried out to improve the surrounding area.

She reported that she was still trying to address concerns about the lack of a late night bus service from Galashiels to Walkerburn. It had been difficult to liaise with the Chairman of Clovenfords C.C. but she

will continue to attempt to get the problem resolved. Arran Houston confirmed that there was considerable local annoyance about the lack of this service and both he and Mrs Thornton offered to assist Ms Daykin resolve the problem. They will contact relevant parties direct and, if necessary, mount a campaign to get maximum publicity about the failings of bus companies and SBC over their failure to provide a necessary service. Mr Thornton will put an article in Burning Issues and Ms Daykin will draft a letter to Tim Stevenson (SBC Subsidy Regime re Buses) and cc it to Brian Frater. Arran also agreed to help.

She also wished to pass on thanks to SBC regarding the local road signs, which had been in a very dirty state, and were now fully cleaned up. Members endorsed that.

c) Mr Waller asked secretary to pass on concerns from a resident regarding working vehicles parking awkwardly in Tweedholm Avenue. It was pointed out that Police were aware of problems in this street and any resident with a complaint should pass on any complaint to the Police at the time.

d) Mrs Thornton also asked that SBC be thanked for commencing the long-awaited re-surfacing of Caberston Road and repairing of the drains. Also, thanks to Cllr. Bell for his efforts in pursuing this matter.

She also passed on a query from a resident regarding the possibility of better signage along the new multi-use pathway. Cllr. Bell confirmed that this was in hand and expected that it would be completed this Spring.

e) Mrs Ogilvie-Wilson reported that, in the absence of Ms Daykin, she had attended the recent meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership and found it to be very informative. She gave a comprehensive report on the meeting - in particular, four aspects of the discussions:

i. 'Safer Communities' neighbourhood watch proposals

ii. Affordable Housing concerns

iii. The need for small commercial properties in Tweeddale

iv. The many positive, 'feel-good' aspects of local communities. i.e. OAP Lunches, Community Gardens, the 'Men's Shed' etc. The full Minutes of the meeting will be available soon on the SBC website.

She also mentioned concerns raised by a local resident about possible asbestos contamination in the disused mill building. Cllr. Bell pointed out that SBC monitored such potential hazards, as well as possible dangerous structure hazards.

Reports by SBC Councillors.

a) Councillor Haslam forwarded an update on the Walkerburn Youth Club. Successful meetings have been on-going with the young people and parents. The youth club is continuing.

b) Cllr Bell reported that a press release will be issued shortly by Dave Hodgson regarding funding for the Youth Club. Members thanked all those who are helping.

He confirmed that future Tweeddale Area Partnership meetings are scheduled to be held on:

Weds. 27th March; Wed. 12th June; Wed. 28th August and Wed. 6th November.

Any Other Business.

The perennial problem of Dog Fouling was discussed by members and it was pointed out that SBC will supply various paints, sprays, notices etc. for communities to collect from Eshiels depot. Also, they are able to offer owners free electronic chipping for their dogs.

Date of the Next WDDC Meeting.

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th March 2019.

All residents are welcome to attend.

Walkerburn Community Website

If you want to know "What's On" at the village hall, who to contact about a particular local group, or want a number for a local tradesman, the community website is the place to go. If your group is not on the local contacts list, please send details to mail@walkerburn.com.

Note: If you want to advertise an event in the village you don't have to wait for the next issue of Burning Issues, but can send information direct to mail@walkerburn.com for posting onto the "what's on" page.

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WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: March/April

Date	Event	Time
March		
Tuesday 12th	Friendship, Fellowship & Fun (Ante Room) Walkerburn OAP (Ante Room) Shakespeare at Traquair Rehearsals	10.00am 2.00pm 7.00-9.00pm
Wednesday 13th	Hall Management Committee	6.00pm
Friday 15th	Dragonfly Theatre Rehearsals	7.00-9.00pm
Sunday 17th	Church Service	10.00am
Tuesday 19th	Lunch Club Shakespeare at Traquair Rehearsals	12.00noon 7.00-9.00pm
Wednesday 20th	Community Council	7.00pm
Friday 22nd	Dragonfly Theatre Rehearsals	7.00-9.00pm
Saturday 23rd	Walkerburn Senior Citizens Coffee Morning Faulty Dining	10.00am 7.00pm
Monday 25th	What Matters Community Hub	10am-1pm
Tuesday 26th	Guild Shakespeare at Traquair Rehearsals	2.00pm 7.00-9.00pm
Sunday 31st	Church Service	10.00am
April		
Tuesday 2nd	Lunch Club	12noon
Wednesday 3rd	Walkerburn SWI	7.30pm
Tuesday 9th	Walkerburn OAPs (Ante Room)	2.00pm
Wednesday 17th	Community Council	7.00pm
Sunday 21st	Church Service in the Park followed by bacon rolls in the Hall	8.30am
Tuesday 23rd	WPHall Trustees and Management Committee (Combined AGM)	6.30pm

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

Mondays	MindfulYoga	7.00-8.45pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi (closed group)	10.15-11.45am
Thursdays	Youth Club	6.30pm
Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00-9.00pm



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BURNing Issues Contributors

Please submit any letters, articles or other material for inclusion in the April 2019 issue by the last day of March.
Thank you!

Contact BURNing Issues at walkerburnnews@hotmail.com